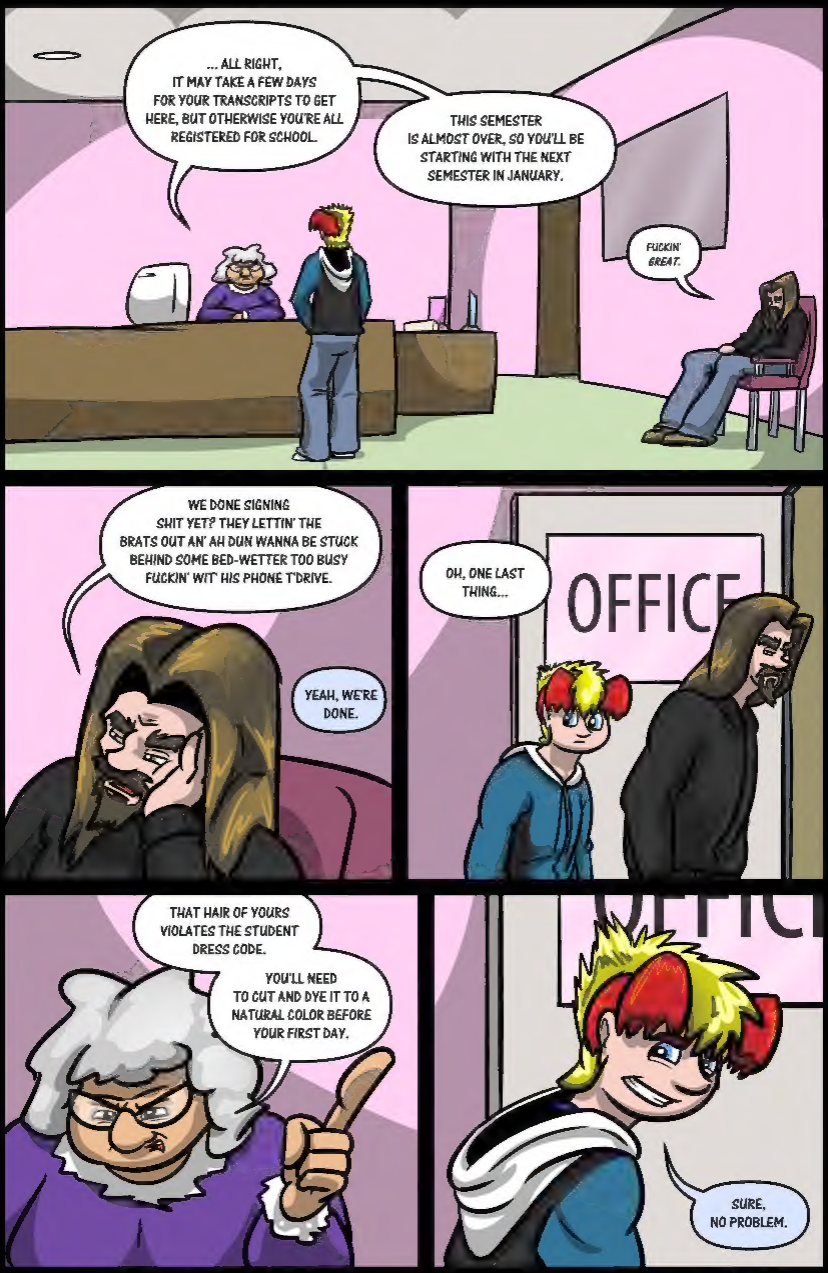
BLITZ PHOENIX

Chapter 8: Adjusting

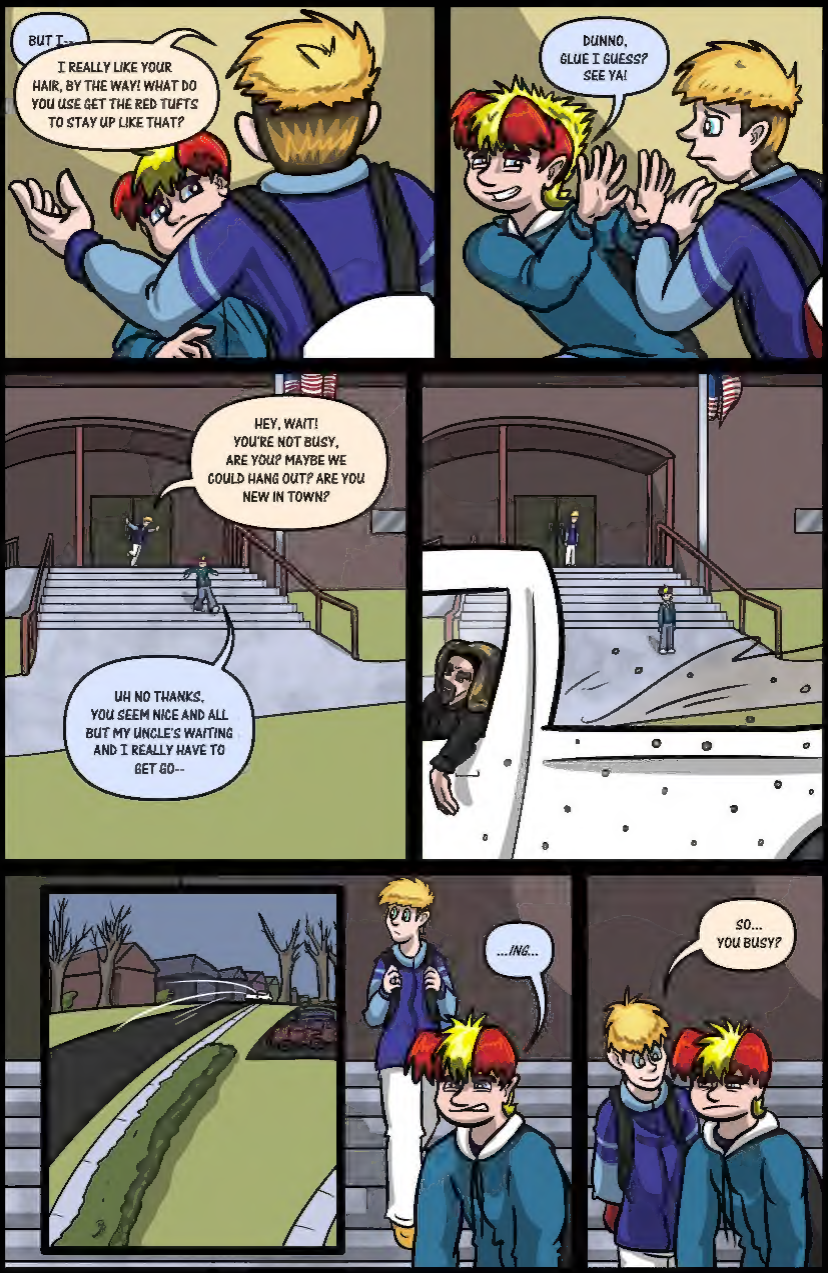
Emily Brackhan

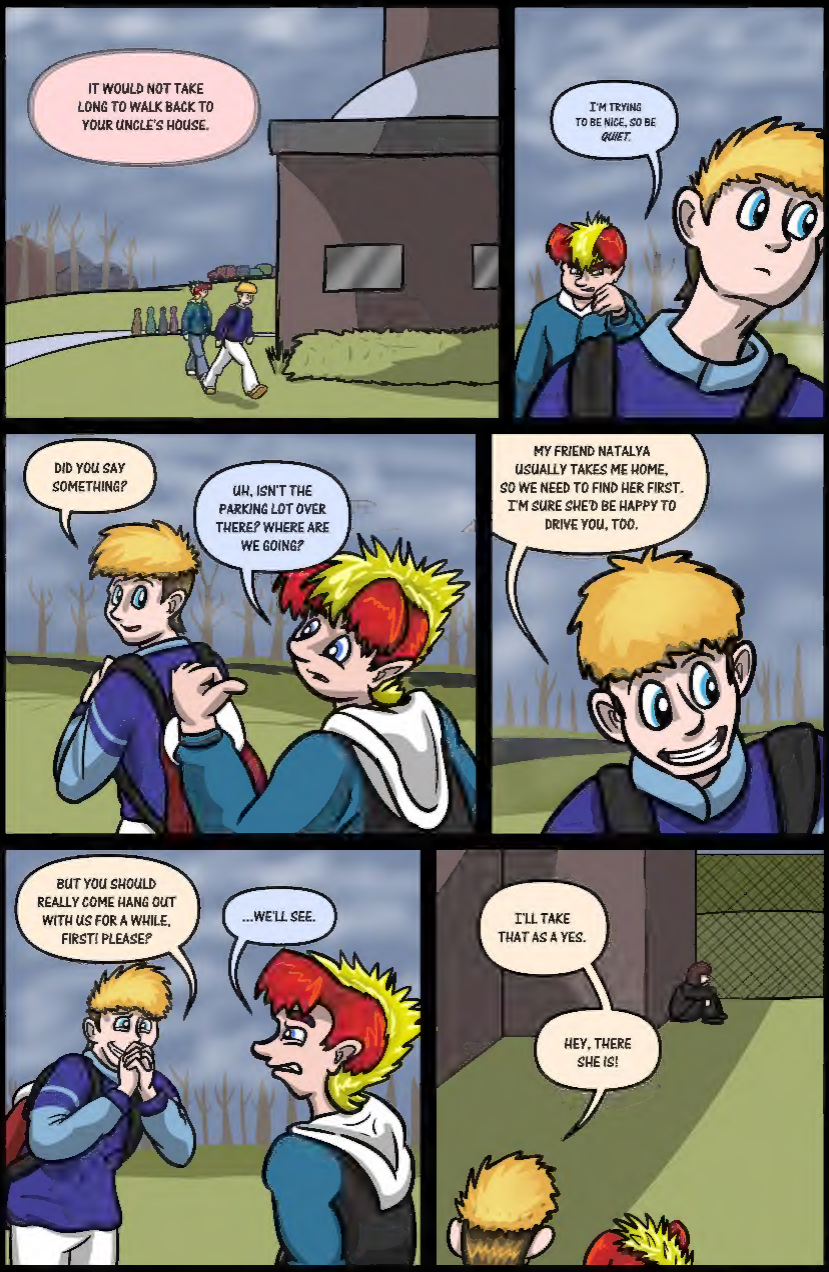
http://www.arcuit.com/

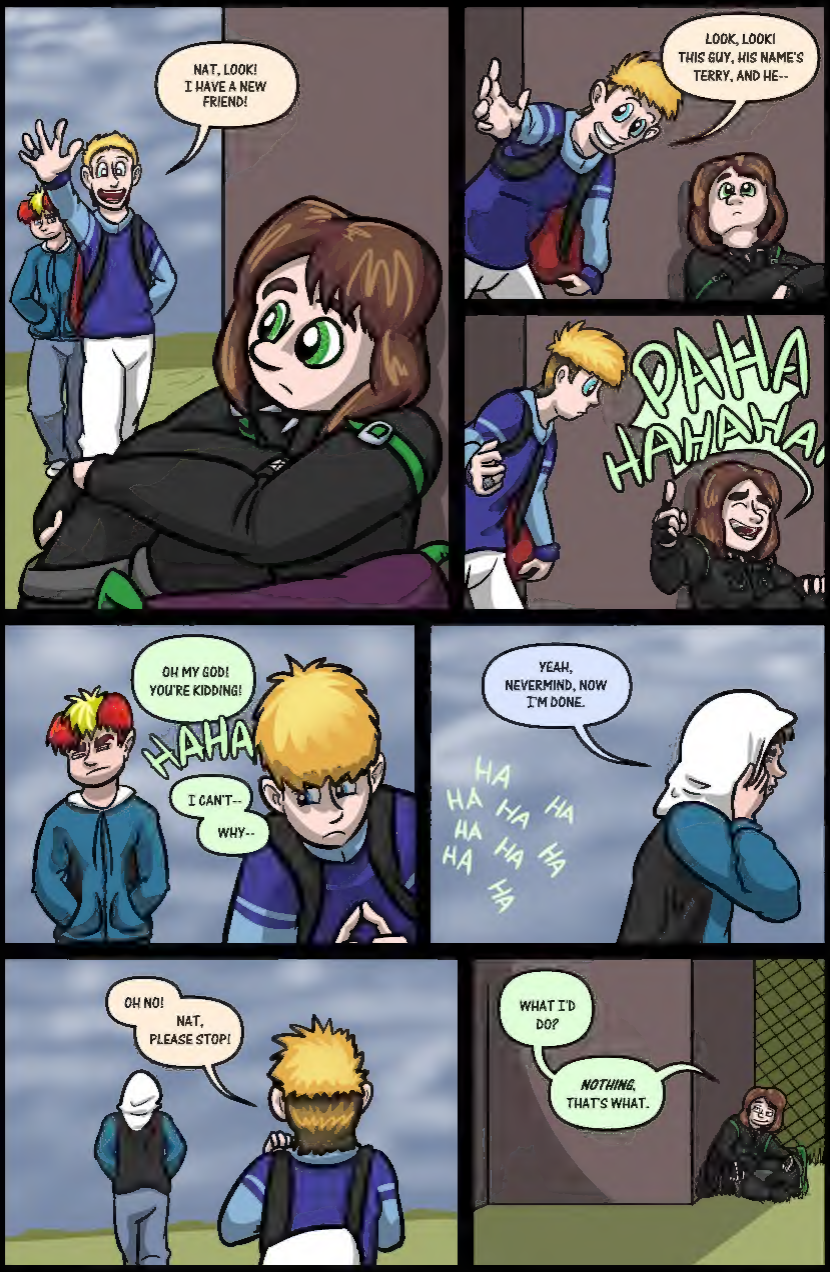

... ALL RIGHT, IT MAY TAKE A FEW DAYS FOR YOUR TRANSCRIPTS TO GET HERE, BUT OTHERWISE YOU'RE ALL REGISTERED FOR SCHOOL.
THIS SEMESTER IS ALMOST OVER, SO YOU'LL BE STARTING WITH THE NEXT SEMESTER IN JANUARY.
FUCKIN' GREAT.
WE DONE SIGNING SHIT YET? THEY LETTIN' THE BRATS OUT AN' AH DUN WANNA BE STUCK BEHIND SOME BED-WETTER TOO BUSY FUCKIN' WIT' HIS PHONE T'DRIVE.
YEAH, WE'RE DONE.
OH, ONE LAST THING...
OFFICE
THAT HAIR OF YOURS VIOLATES THE STUDENT DRESS CODE.
YOU'LL NEED TO CUT AND DYE IT TO A NATURAL COLOR BEFORE YOUR FIRST DAY.
SURE, NO PROBLEM.

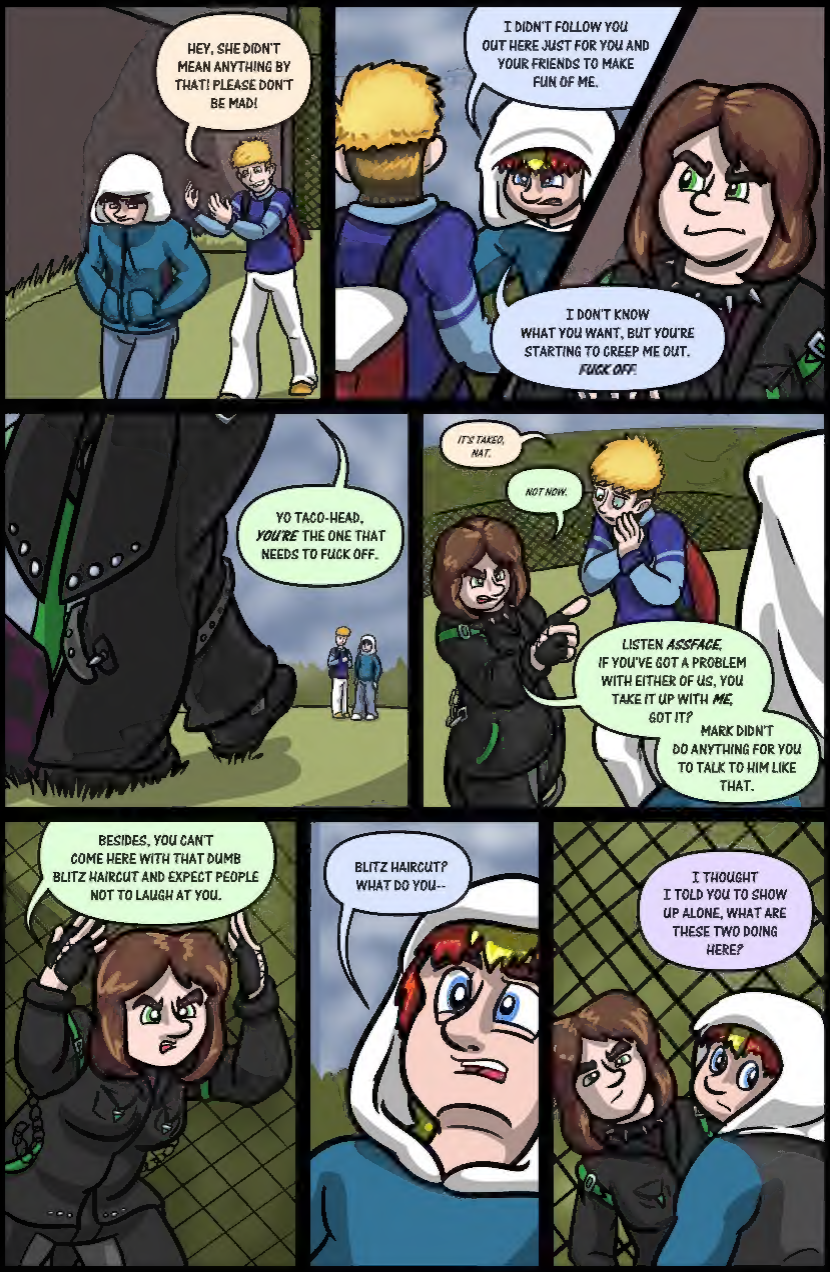
SO NOW WILL YOU GIVE ME MONEY FOR A HAIRCUT?
FUCK YOU, USE YER OWN.
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY!
GUESS YER OUTTA LUCK, DEN.
YOU'RE RICH! A HAIRCUT IS TWELVE BUCKS!
SAY THAT A LIL' LOUDER, WHY DONCHA?
AN' IF AH GIVE YEH ANY MONEY, YER JUS' GONN' ASK FER MORE! AH KNOW YER TYPE!
SO, WHAT, YOU EXPECT ME TO LIVE WITHOUT MONEY?
YER TH' ONE WHO DECIDED T'GO T'SCHOOL INSTEAD A' GITTIN' A JOB. AIN'T MAH PROBLEM.
AN' I AH ALREADY BOUGHT YA SOME DAMN CLOTHES, GIT OFF MAH BACK.
...FROM A THRIFT STORE.
WHAT WERE YA EXPECTIN', A PENGUIN TUX?
A FUCKIN' COAT MADE-A BENJAMINS?
AIN'T NOTHIN' WRONG WIT' THRIFT SHOPS, THA'S WHERE I ALWAYS GIT MAH SHIT. YER JUS' SPOILED.
WELL HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIX MY HAIR THEN?
CUT IT YERSELF, MOW SOME ASSHOLE'S LAWN, OR MUG SOMEONE. AH DUN CARE.
NOW MOVE YER DAMN FEET, AH ALREADY TOL' YOU AH DON' WANNA BE HERE.

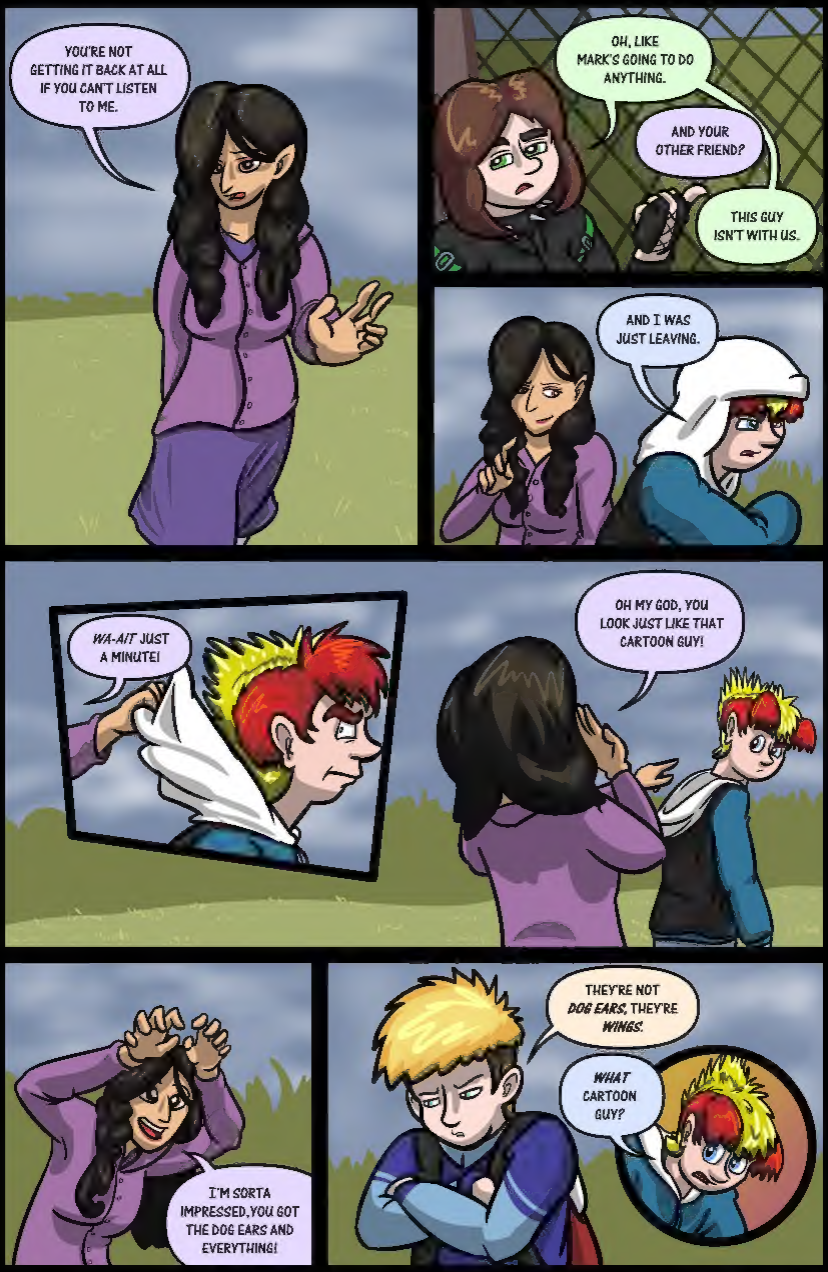
WHAT IF I MUG YOU?
YEH WON'T.
HI!
ACK!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND HERE BEFORE! ARE YOU NEW?
UH YEAH... JUST TRANSFERRED.
I'M MARK! MARK WEIKES!
...TERRY BREYKEN.
OH WOW! SO YOUR INITIALS ARE "TB"? THAT'S A WEIRD COINCIDENCE!
AW FUCK THIS.
WHAT...? TUBERCULOSIS?
HUH? NO SILLY, BUT THAT'S FUNNY TOO, I GUESS!

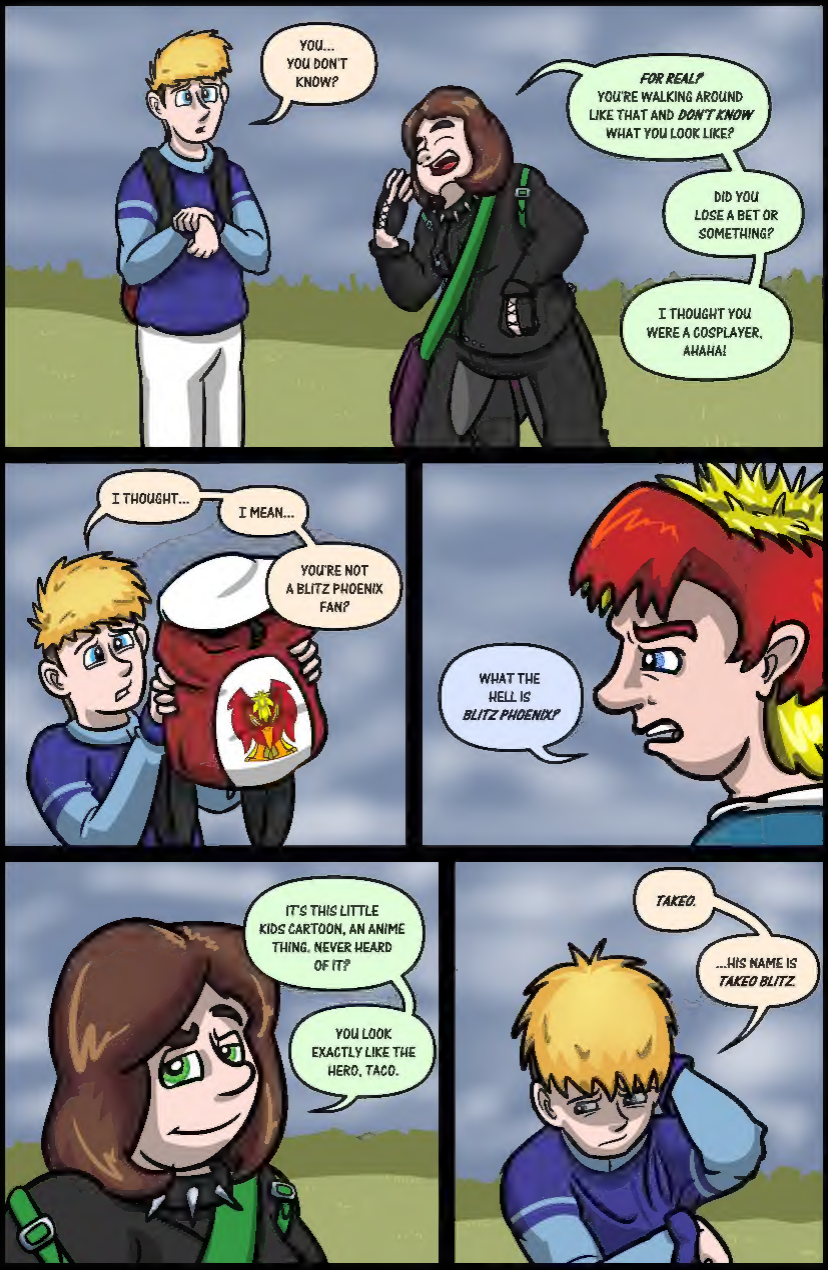

BUT I--
I REALLY LIKE YOUR HAIR, BY THE WAY! WHAT DO YOU USE GET THE RED TUFTS TO STAY UP LIKE THAT?
DUNNO. GLUE I GUESS? SEE YA!
HEY, WAIT! YOU'RE NOT BUSY, ARE YOU? MAYBE WE COULD HANG OUT? ARE YOU NEW IN TOWN?
UH NO THANKS. YOU SEEM NICE AND ALL BUT MY UNCLE'S WAITING AND I REALLY HAVE TO GET GO--
...ING...
SO... YOU BUSY?


IT WOULD NOT TAKE LONG TO WALK BACK TO YOUR UNCLE'S HOUSE.
I'M TRYING TO BE NICE, SO BE QUIET.
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
UH, ISN'T THE PARKING LOT OVER THERE? WHERE ARE WE GOING?
MY FRIEND NATALYA USUALLY TAKES ME HOME, SO WE NEED TO FIND HER FIRST. I'M SURE SHE'D BE HAPPY TO DRIVE YOU, TOO.
BUT YOU SHOULD REALLY COME HANG OUT WITH US FOR A WHILE, FIRST! PLEASE?
...WE'LL SEE.
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A YES.
HEY, THERE SHE IS!


NAT, LOOK! I HAVE A NEW FRIEND!
LOOK, LOOK! THIS GUY, HIS NAME'S TERRY, AND HE--
HAHA HAHAHA!
OH MY GOD! YOU'RE KIDDING!
HAHA
I CAN'T--
WHY--
YEAH, NEVERMIND, NOW I'M DONE.
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
OH NO! NAT, PLEASE STOP!
WHAT I'D DO?
NOTHING, THAT'S WHAT.


HEY, SHE DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY THAT! PLEASE DON'T BE MAD!
I DIDN'T FOLLOW YOU OUT HERE JUST FOR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS TO MAKE FUN OF ME.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT, BUT YOU'RE STARTING TO CREEP ME OUT. FUCK OFF.
YO TACO-HEAD, YOU'RE THE ONE THAT NEEDS TO FUCK OFF.
IT'S TAKEO, NAT.
NOT NOW.
LISTEN ASSFACE, IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH EITHER OF US, YOU TAKE IT UP WITH ME, GOT IT? MARK DIDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU TO TALK TO HIM LIKE THAT.
BESIDES, YOU CAN'T COME HERE WITH THAT DUMB BLITZ HAIRCUT AND EXPECT PEOPLE NOT TO LAUGH AT YOU.
BLITZ HAIRCUT? WHAT DO YOU--
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO SHOW UP ALONE, WHAT ARE THESE TWO DOING HERE?

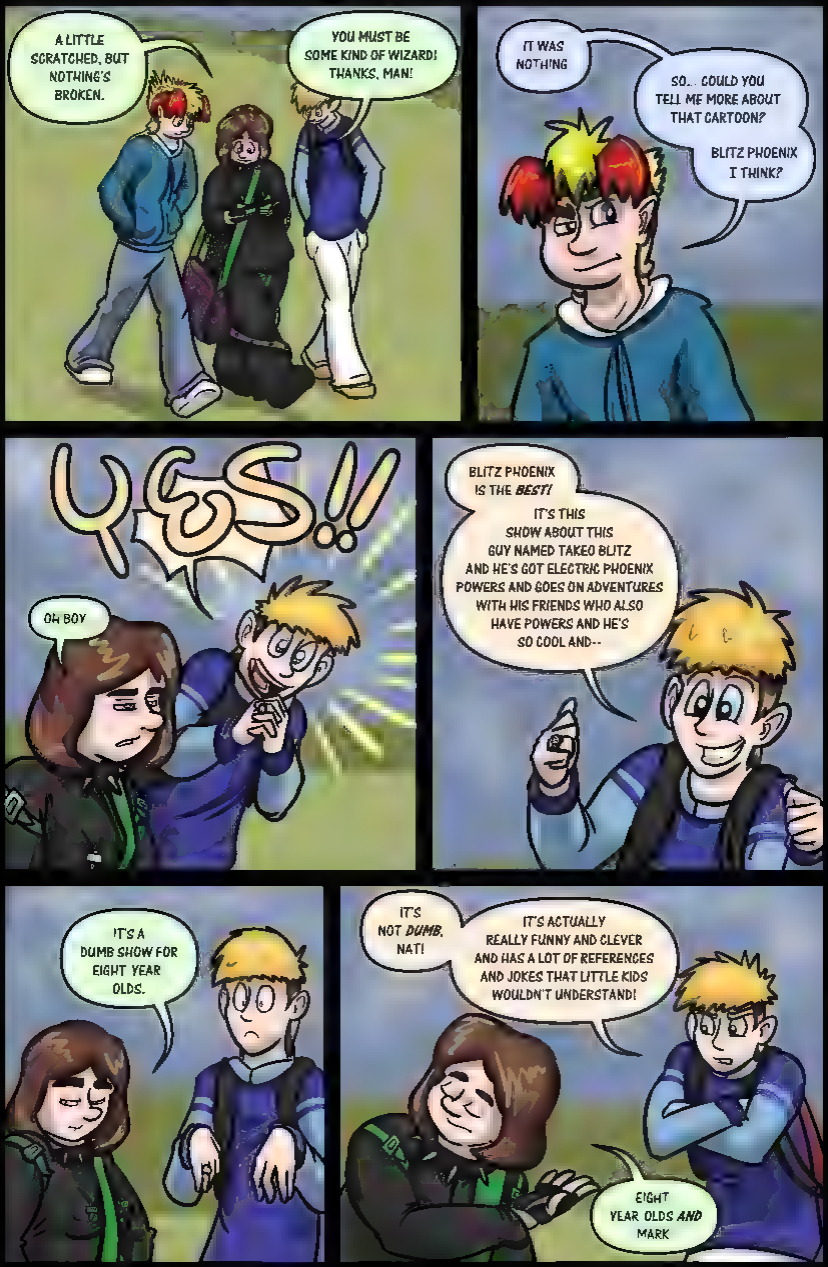

YOU'RE NOT GETTING IT BACK AT ALL IF YOU CAN'T LISTEN TO ME.
OH, LIKE MARK'S GOING TO DO ANYTHING.
AND YOUR OTHER FRIEND?
THIS GUY ISN'T WITH US.
AND I WAS JUST LEAVING.
WA-AIT JUST A MINUTE!
OH MY GOD, YOU LOOK JUST LIKE THAT CARTOON GUY!
I'M SORTA IMPRESSED, YOU GOT THE DOG EARS AND EVERYTHING!
THEY'RE NOT DOG EARS, THEY'RE WINGS.
WHAT CARTOON GUY?

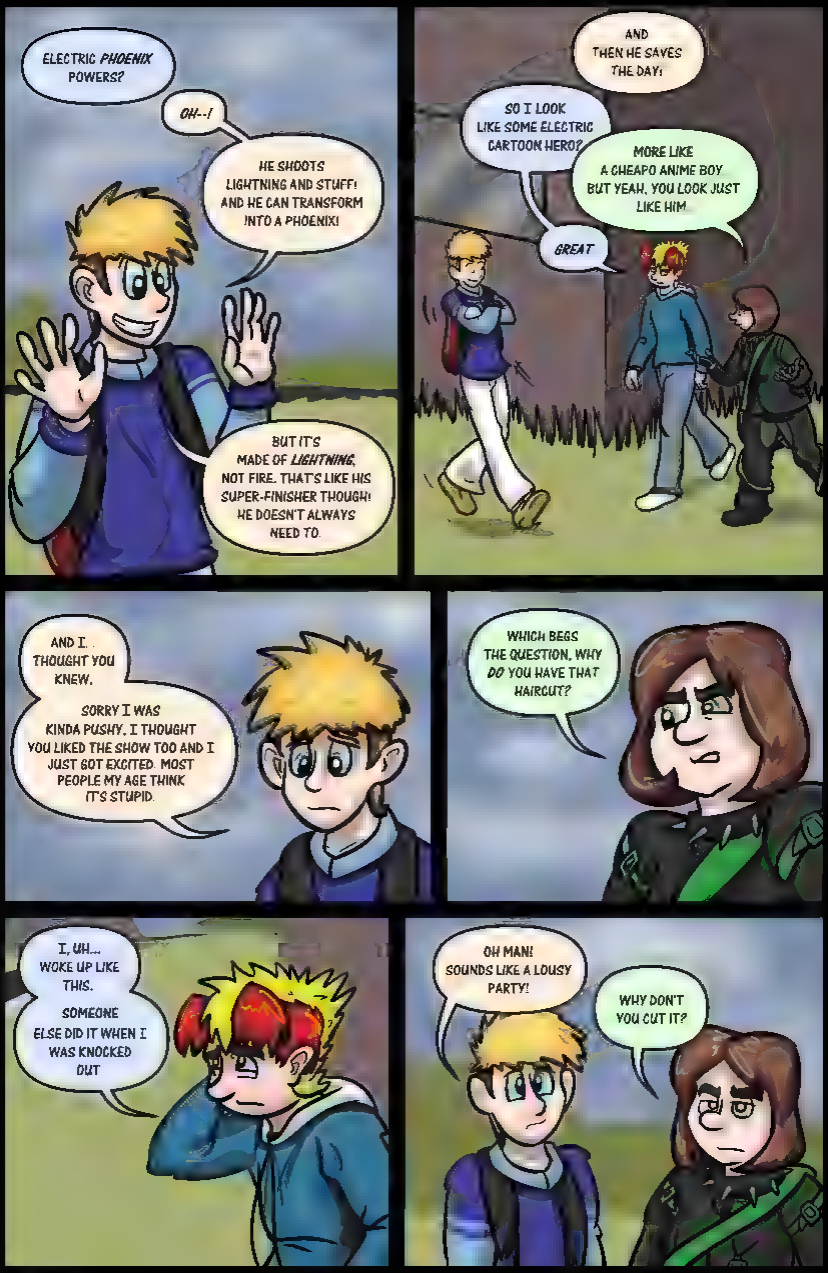

YOU... YOU DON'T KNOW?
FOR REAL? YOU'RE WALKING AROUND LIKE THAT AND DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE?
DID YOU LOSE A BET OR SOMETHING?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A COSPLAYER, AHAHA!
I THOUGHT...
I MEAN...
YOU'RE NOT A BLITZ PHOENIX FAN?
WHAT THE HELL IS BLITZ PHOENIX?
IT'S THIS LITTLE KIDS CARTOON, AN ANIME THING. NEVER HEARD OF IT?
YOU LOOK EXACTLY LIKE THE HERO, TACO.
TAKEO.
...HIS NAME IS TAKEO BLITZ.

HELLOOO!
BACK TO ME, PEASANTS!
YOU, FATTY I ALREADY KNOW YOU STOLE MY PURSE. RETURN IT AND YOU CAN HAVE YOUR PHONE BACK
I SAID I DIDN'T TAKE IT, MORON
GABE SAID HE SAW YOU
WELL ISN'T THAT WE!RD, BECAUSE I DIDN'T! THE ONLY THIEF HERE IS YOU
HM! OKAY, IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT TO PLAY
FSHTT

SCORE!
YOU BITCH!!
YOU GET THAT DOWN OR YOU OWE ME A NEW PHONE!
THAT WASN'T VERY NICE, JESSICA!
I DON'T OWE YOU ANYTHING!
LIKE HELL! I'LL BUST YOUR FACE UP IF YOU DON'T FIX THIS!
OH NO! PLEASE CALM DOWN, NAT!
CRACK!
THE HELL WAS THAT NOISE?

PROBLEM SOLVED.
WOW, THANKS!
WAIT, BUT HOW DID YOU GET THAT DOWN SO FAST?!
JUST THREW A ROCK AT IT, NO BIG DEAL
A PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU, JESSICA. NOW WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY


A LITTLE SCRATCHED, BUT NOTHING'S BROKEN.
YOU MUST BE SOME KIND OF WIZARD! THANKS, MAN!
IT WAS NOTHING
SO... COULD YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT THAT CARTOON?
BLITZ PHOENIX I THINK?
YES!!
OH BOY
BLITZ PHOENIX IS THE *BEST!*
IT'S THIS SHOW ABOUT THIS GUY NAMED TAKEO BLITZ AND HE'S GOT ELECTRIC PHOENIX POWERS AND GOES ON ADVENTURES WITH HIS FRIENDS WHO ALSO HAVE POWERS AND HE'S SO COOL AND--
IT'S A DUMB SHOW FOR EIGHT YEAR OLDS.
IT'S NOT *DUMB*, NAT!
IT'S ACTUALLY REALLY FUNNY AND CLEVER AND HAS A LOT OF REFERENCES AND JOKES THAT LITTLE KIDS WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND!
EIGHT YEAR OLDS *AND* MARK


ELECTRIC PHOENIX POWERS?
OH--!
HE SHOOTS LIGHTNING AND STUFF! AND HE CAN TRANSFORM INTO A PHOENIX!
BUT IT'S MADE OF LIGHTNING, NOT FIRE. THAT'S LIKE HIS SUPER-FINISHER THOUGH! HE DOESN'T ALWAYS NEED TO.
AND THEN HE SAVES THE DAY!
SO I LOOK LIKE SOME ELECTRIC CARTOON HERO?
MORE LIKE A CHEAPO ANIME BOY BUT YEAH, YOU LOOK JUST LIKE HIM.
GREAT
AND I... THOUGHT YOU KNEW.
SORRY I WAS KINDA PUSHY. I THOUGHT YOU LIKED THE SHOW TOO AND I JUST GOT EXCITED. MOST PEOPLE MY AGE THINK IT'S STUPID.
WHICH BEGS THE QUESTION, WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT HAIRCUT?
I, UH... WOKE UP LIKE THIS.
SOMEONE ELSE DID IT WHEN I WAS KNOCKED OUT
OH MAN! SOUNDS LIKE A LOUSY PARTY!
WHY DON'T YOU CUT IT?

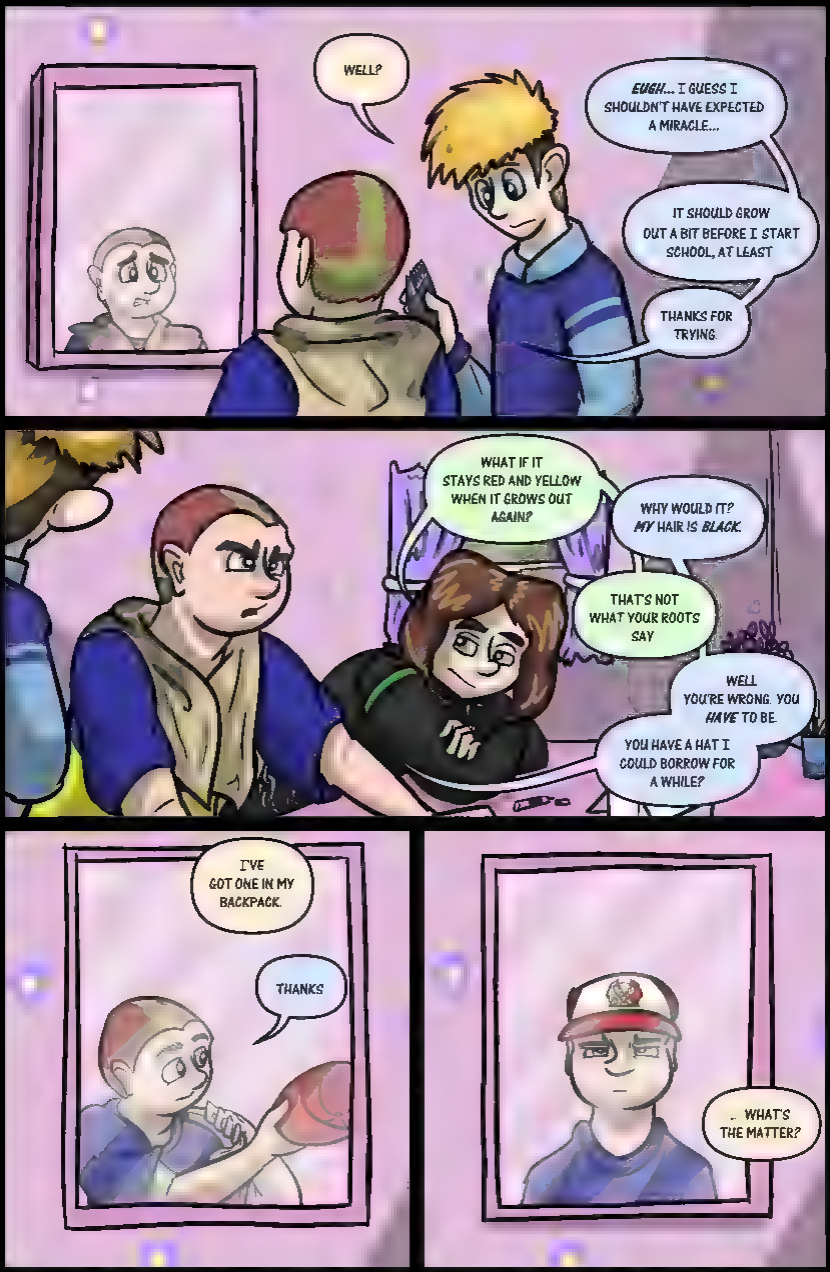
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO, BUT MY UNCLE WON'T PAY FOR IT AND I'M BROKE!
I'LL PROBABLY JUST MAKE IT WORSE IF I TRY TO FIX IT MYSELF NOT LIKE I COULD BUY DYE ANYWAY
WELL, WE CUT EACH OTHER'S HAIR ALL THE TIME.
AND I'VE GOT SOME HAIR DYE AT HOME. WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER AND WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT?
OH! THEN I CAN SHOW YOU BLITZ PHOENIX! IT'S GREAT, YOU'LL SEE!
.. YEAH
I GUESS THAT'S
SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN! LET'S GO!
DID I ACTUALLY HAVE ANY SAY IN THI
NOPE

TODAY'S GOING TO BE A GREAT DAY!
WHATEVER
THE GATOR GANG IS STEALING ALL THOSE EGGS!!
BOSS, IT'S THOSE KIDS AGAIN!
GET THEM!!
ANOTHER JOB WELL DONE! GOOD WORK, TEAM!
LOOK! WE SAVED ALL THE CUTE LITTLE BABIES!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
I GUESS IT'S OKAY FOR LITTLE KIDS? BUT I DON'T GET IT
IT'S NOT ALL THAT BAD! IT'S JUST BECAUSE THIS WAS A RANDOM EPISODE
NO IT ISN'T
-IT'S A LOT BETTER IF YOU WATCH IT FROM THE BEGINNING
NO IT'S NOT
CUT IT OUT NAT
THANKS BUT I DON'T THINK I NEED TO SEE ANY MORE OF THAT
EVER
SO YOU SAID YOU'D FIX MY HAIR, RIGHT?
YEAH, BUT... HAVE YOU THOUGHT, MAYBE... ABOUT KEEPING IT LIKE THAT?
WHAT-
I JUST THINK IT LOOKS COOL, I MEAN REALLY CLOSE TO TAKEO'S, YOU KNOW?
I HAVE HIS COSTUME AT MY HOUSE, IT WOULD PROBABLY FIT YOU
ARE YOU INSANE? THAT WASN'T THE DEAL!
HE'S NOT BUYING IT, MARK, DON'T SCARE HIM OFF
THE STUFF'S IN THE BATHROOM

HM. IT'S RUNNING OFF.
HUH?
THE DYE COLOR WON'T STICK AT ALL.
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU'VE DONE THIS BEFORE?
I HAVE! I HELP NAT WITH HERS.
THEN WHY ISN'T IT WORKING NOW?
I DUNNO! SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG WITH YOUR HAIR.
WELL OBVIOUSLY!
CALM DOWN, DUDE.
HOW LONG DID YOU SAY YOU'VE HAD THESE COLORS?
A MONTH? MAYBE A LITTLE LONGER.
AND IT WAS JUST DYED THE ONE TIME?
I THINK? I MEAN, I GUESS THEY COULD HAVE KNOCKED ME OUT AGAIN AND I DIDN'T KNOW
OOO-KAY. YOU NEED SOME NEW FRIENDS, DUDE. SERIOUSLY.
BUT THIS COLOR OF YOURS LOOKS REAL. IT'S NOT FADED AT ALL AND YOUR ROOTS ARE JUST AS BRIGHT
EITHER YOUR HAIR'S STOPPED GROWING OR YOUR NATURAL COLOR CHANGED TO THIS

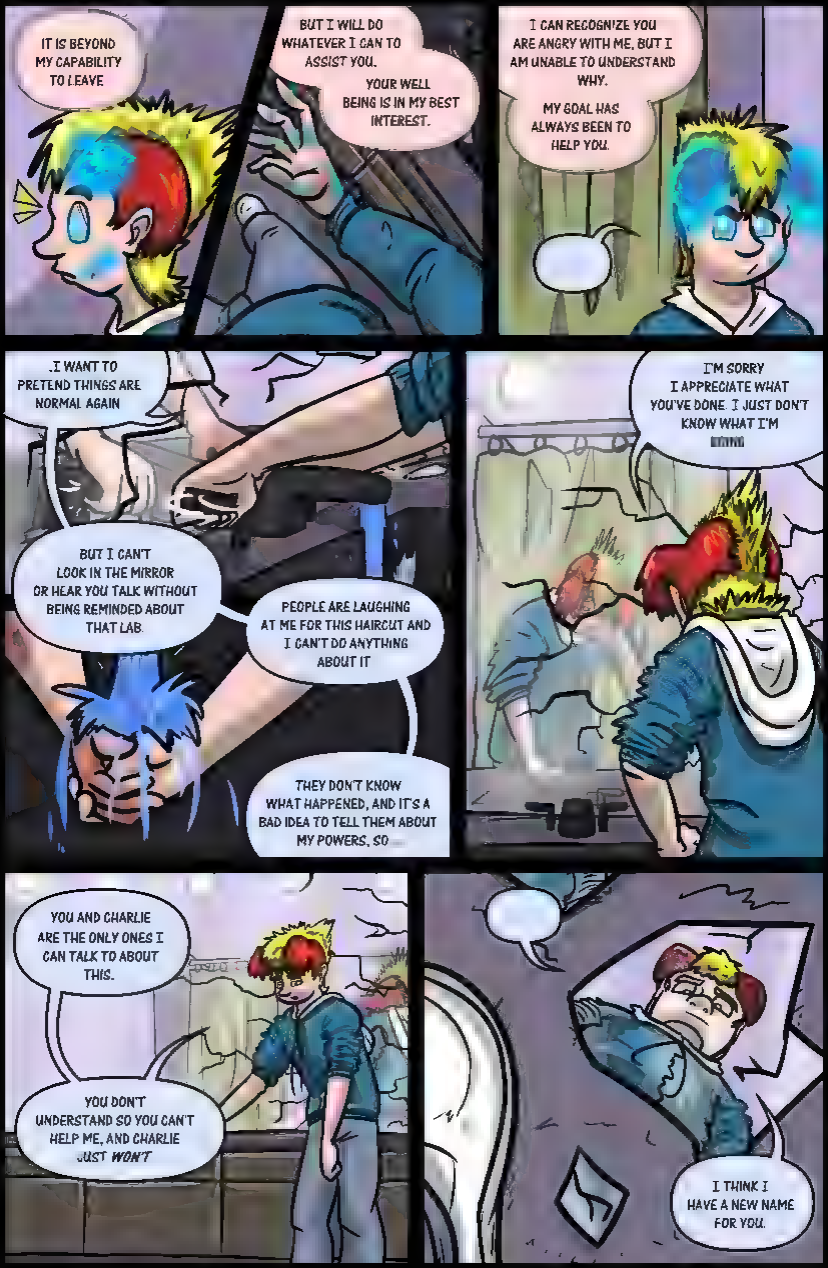
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
COMPLETELY
HOW'VE YOU BEEN KEEPING YOUR HAIR UP?
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.
AND IT'S BEEN LIKE THAT... FOR A MONTH!
WOULD IT MAKE MORE SENSE IF I'VE ONLY BATHED TWICE IN THAT TIME?
GROSS! WHAT THE FUCK IS WRONG WITH YOU?!
IT'S A LONG STORY, OKAY?!
WELL IF THE DYE WON'T STICK, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO I THINK YOU'RE STUCK WITH THAT COLOR
THEN COULD YOU SHAVE IT ALL OFF? LOOKING AT IT MAKES ME WANNA PUKE.
ALRIGHT

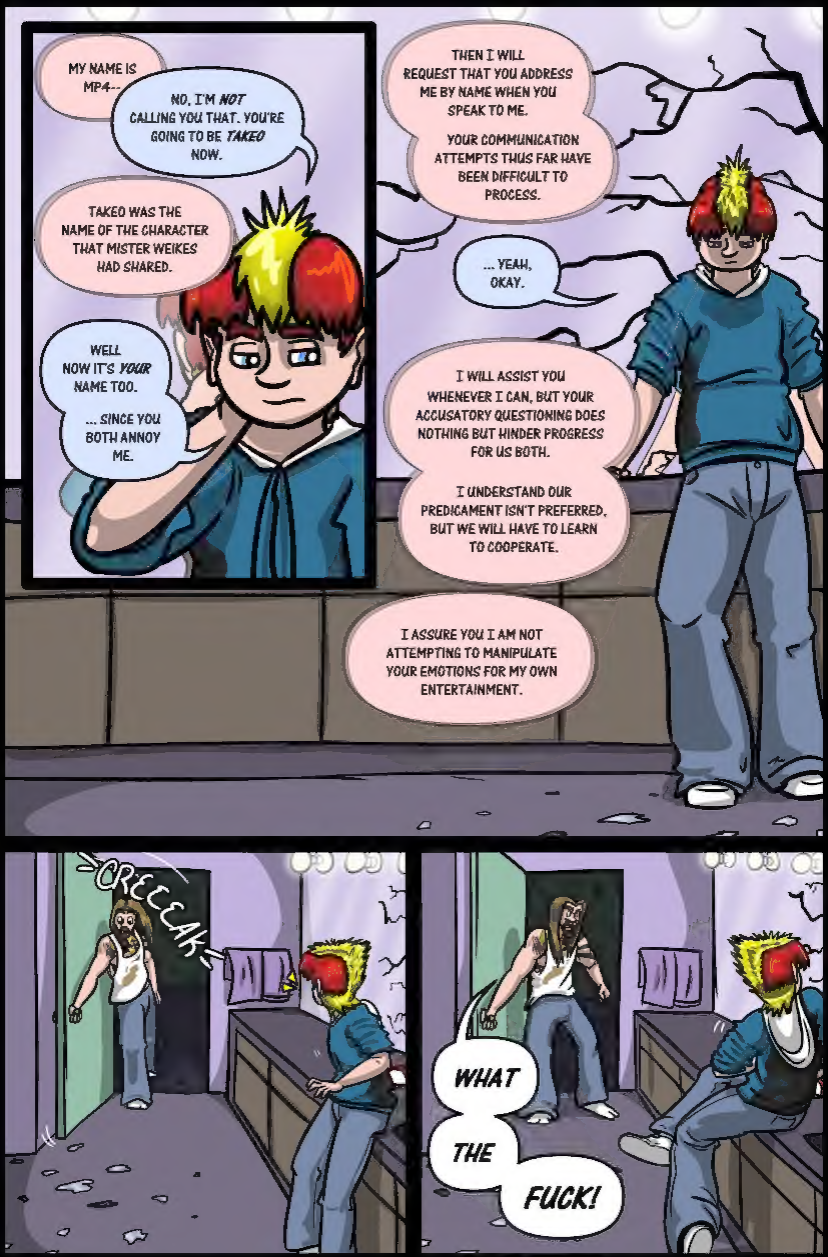

WELL?
EUGH... I GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED A MIRACLE...
IT SHOULD GROW OUT A BIT BEFORE I START SCHOOL, AT LEAST
THANKS FOR TRYING.
WHAT IF IT STAYS RED AND YELLOW WHEN IT GROWS OUT AGAIN?
WHY WOULD IT? MY HAIR IS BLACK.
THAT'S NOT WHAT YOUR ROOTS SAY
WELL YOU'RE WRONG. YOU HAVE TO BE.
YOU HAVE A HAT I COULD BORROW FOR A WHILE?
I'VE GOT ONE IN MY BACKPACK.
THANKS
.. WHAT'S THE MATTER?

CREEAK
YOU KNOW YOUR FRONT DOOR IS BROKEN?
WHERE THE FUCK YA BEEN? GET LOST?
I MET SOME NEW FRIENDS.
SOUNDS DUMB LIKE YER HAT
WELL THEY GAVE ME A HAIRCUT
LOOKS TERRIBLE. DON'T IT?
IT'S BETTER
AH'LL BE THE JUDGE A' THAT
HUH.
IF BY BETTAH YA MEAN 'XACTLY THE SAME, THEN YEH, IT'S BETTAH
B-BUT I
BUT HE-
WE CUT IT OFF! I MEAN
YEH CAN JUS' ADMIT YEH DECIDED T'KEEP IT, YEH KNOW! YA DON' HAFTA LIE!

I KNOW WE JUST BUZZED THIS OFF! AM I GOING CRAZY?
YOU ARE CORRECT THAT YOUR AQUAINTANCES REMOVED IT
REALLY DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL BETTER IF YOU'RE THE ONE ANSWERING WHEN I ASK IF I'M CRAZY!
I ASSUMED YOU WERE SPEAKING TO ME AS NO ONE ELSE IS NEAR
WELL YOU SHOULDN'T ASSUME, IT'S RUDE OR SOME SH--
WHY IS MY HAIR BACK, ASSHOLE?!
YOU HAVE AN ABILITY CALLED RECOVERY MODE. IT REPAIRS ANY DAMAGES YOUR BODY SUFFERS.
BUT THAT WASN'T DAMAGE, IT WAS A HAIRCUT!
RECOVERY MODE CANNOT TELL THE DIFFERENCE
I THOUGHT THOSE DOCTORS SAID I ONLY HEAL WHEN I'M ASLEEP!
THE ACTIVE MODE HAPPENS WHEN YOU SLEEP, AND CAN BE SELF ACTIVATED
PASSIVE RECOVERY MODE IS ALWAYS RUNNING, JUST SLOWER THAN ACTIVE RECOVERY MODE.
HAIR IS NOT RESOURCE-INTENSIVE TO REPLACE AND REGROWS QUICKLY
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THIS EARLIER?!
YOU HAD ORDERED ME TO BE QUIET
GOD DAMNIT!

YOU THINK YOU'RE PRETTY FUCKING FUNNY, DON'T YOU?!
I WAS RUNNING AROUND TRYING TO GET MY OLD HAIR BACK, AND YOU KNEW I CAN'T?!
I DO NOT EXPERIENCE EMOTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH HUMOR, AS I DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO YOUR LIMBIC SYSTEM.
OH, MORE OF THAT "I DON'T HAVE EMOTIONS" CRAP! THAT SUPPOSED TO BE CUTE?!
I--
SHUT UP! YOU'RE JUST A PEST!
I AM TRYING TO HELP YOU.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO HELP-
I WANT YOU TO LEAVE!
CRACK!


IT IS BEYOND MY CAPABILITY TO LEAVE
BUT I WILL DO WHATEVER I CAN TO ASSIST YOU.
YOUR WELL BEING IS IN MY BEST INTEREST.
I CAN RECOGNIZE YOU ARE ANGRY WITH ME, BUT I AM UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY.
MY GOAL HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO HELP YOU.
.I WANT TO PRETEND THINGS ARE NORMAL AGAIN
BUT I CAN'T LOOK IN THE MIRROR OR HEAR YOU TALK WITHOUT BEING REMINDED ABOUT THAT LAB
PEOPLE ARE LAUGHING AT ME FOR THIS HAIRCUT AND I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT
THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, AND IT'S A BAD IDEA TO TELL THEM ABOUT MY POWERS, SO
I'M SORRY I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'VE DONE. I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING
YOU AND CHARLIE ARE THE ONLY ONES I CAN TALK TO ABOUT THIS.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND SO YOU CAN'T HELP ME, AND CHARLIE JUST *WON'T*
I THINK I HAVE A NEW NAME FOR YOU.


MY NAME IS MP4--
NO, I'M NOT CALLING YOU THAT. YOU'RE GOING TO BE TAKEO NOW.
TAKEO WAS THE NAME OF THE CHARACTER THAT MISTER WEIKES HAD SHARED.
WELL NOW IT'S YOUR NAME TOO.
... SINCE YOU BOTH ANNOY ME.
THEN I WILL REQUEST THAT YOU ADDRESS ME BY NAME WHEN YOU SPEAK TO ME.
YOUR COMMUNICATION ATTEMPTS THUS FAR HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO PROCESS.
... YEAH, OKAY.
I WILL ASSIST YOU WHENEVER I CAN, BUT YOUR ACCUSATORY QUESTIONING DOES NOTHING BUT HINDER PROGRESS FOR US BOTH.
I UNDERSTAND OUR PREDICAMENT ISN'T PREFERRED, BUT WE WILL HAVE TO LEARN TO COOPERATE.
I ASSURE YOU I AM NOT ATTEMPTING TO MANIPULATE YOUR EMOTIONS FOR MY OWN ENTERTAINMENT.
CREECAK
WHAT THE FUCK!

WHAT YA SCREAMIN' AN' BREAKIN' MAH SHIT FER?!
I-I'M SORRY--
YA AIN'T *SORRY!* IF YEH WERE *SORRY*, YEH WOULDN'TA DUNNIT IN TH' FIRS' PLACE!
YOU PICK THIS UP *NOW* B'FORE AH BEAT YER ASS!
mrmble...
... would beat your ass...
RKK RG RCK KK
-BMP-
OH! SO *YOU'RE* THE ONE WHO MOVED IN WITH THE HOBO!
SUDDENLY, THINGS MAKE A *LOT* MORE SENSE.

SO, ARE YOU HIS LONG-LOST BASTARD SON, FINALLY COMING TO CASH IN?
NO, CHARLIE'S MY UNCLE.
AND YOU MOVED IN WITH HIM BECAUSE...?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
JUST TELL ME HOW CLOSE I AM: YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE HE'S A DEALER AND HE WANTS YOU TO SELL STUFF IN THE SCHOOL FOR HIM.
THE HAIRSTYLE IS TO ATTRACT THE POT-HEADS.
OH COME ON.
I BET YOU SELL FIREWORKS TOO.
FIREWORKS?
THAT'S HOW YOU GOT THAT PHONE DOWN, ISN'T IT? YOU MUST'VE HAD FIREWORKS IN YOUR POCKET.
I ALREADY TOLD YOU I THREW A ROCK AT IT.
IS THAT WHY THESE BURNT BRANCHES FELL OFF THE TREE? AND WHAT ABOUT THAT CRACKING SOUND? DIDN'T SOUND LIKE A ROCK TO ME.
I'M MORE OBSERVANT THAN THOSE TWO LOSERS YOU WALKED OFF WITH.
... OR MAYBE THEY DIDN'T CARE BECAUSE THEY WERE YOUR CLIENTS?
AM I RIGHT, OR AM I RIGHT?
IF YOU WERE, YOU THINK I'D JUST TELL YOU?
WHAT IF I'M A BUYER?
OH, PRINCESS!
IT'S DARK, WHY ARE YOU STILL OUTSIDE?

JESSIE, GET AWAY FROM THERE! DO YOU WANT TO GET *RABIES*? COME BACK INSIDE THIS INSTANT!
COMING, DADDY!
NAME?
TERRY BREYKEN.
JESSICA HARPER. LOOKS LIKE I'LL SEE YOU AROUND.
TELL YOUR FAT GOTH FRIEND I'M NOT DONE WITH HER.
TRY TO KEEP THE HOBO FROM THROWING UP IN OUR YARD, WILL YOU?
WELL SHIT, I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE NOTICED.
DON'T NEED ANYONE TO KNOW ABOUT MY POWERS. I'LL NEED TO BE MORE CAREFUL.
CHARLIE! YOU HAVE ANY *FIREWORKS*?
END